



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

19 September 2014

Commissioner Roger Goodell
National Football League
345 Park Avenue NY, NY
10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

With stories of NFL players who have committed domestic violence dominating the news, you have the unique opportunity to take a high-profile stand against this potentially life-threatening abuse and set an example for the NFL—and the nation.

As I wrote to you previously, I have a zero-tolerance position on domestic violence. I grew up in a cycle of domestic violence, and I know how it tears apart families and communities. I have been working to raise awareness of domestic violence my entire life, and I have made it my mission as Governor to eradicate this kind of brutality in the State of Maine. With the leadership of the NFL, we can make the ending of domestic violence a national priority.

If you are willing to pull together a group of NFL owners, I will gather a coalition of Governors dedicated to this important cause. Together, we can create an influential partnership to provide a truly exceptional service to American society. Men must step up to end domestic violence, and NFL players are prominent role models who can turn the national spotlight on this reprehensible crime.

My intention is not to damage the NFL's reputation, nor impact it financially. If the NFL can be the catalyst to bring much-needed national attention to this all too frequent crime, then I am willing to work with you to make this atrocious behavior unacceptable. Until all of us make an effort to end domestic violence, the cycle of abuse will continue.

I have listed some of my initiatives as Governor to end domestic violence. But I am only one man. Imagine the powerful, nationwide message we could send if NFL owners and Governors team up to tackle domestic abuse. Please join me in this effort.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor

cc: (All other Governors)



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Efforts by Governor Paul R. LePage to address domestic violence in Maine:

- Implemented a State of Maine workplace domestic violence policy (2011)
- LD 1711, "An Act To Mandate the Use of Standardized Risk Assessment in the Management of Domestic Violence Crimes" (2012)
- LD 1760, "An Act To Ensure Notification to Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking When Defendants Are Released on Bail" (2012)
- LD 1841, "An Act to Ensure Funding for the Victims' Compensation Fund" (2012)
- LD 1867, "An Act To Protect Domestic Violence Victims" (2012)
- Signed an Executive Order establishing the task force to reduce domestic violence through technology (2012)
- Allocated \$100,000 to Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (2013)
- Allocated \$10,000 for completion of Maine Murder Victims' Memorial (2013)
- Created a Task Force to strengthen enforcement of protection from abuse orders (2013)
- LD 1237, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections To Amend Its Rules Pertaining to Certification of Batterer Intervention Programs" (2013)
- LD 1764, "An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Criminal Law Advisory Commission Relative to the Maine Bail Code, the Maine Juvenile Code and the Maine Criminal Code and Related Statutes" (2014)
- Spoken at more than a dozen Maine High Schools about Domestic Violence Awareness
- Supported the Annual Taylor Tip-Off Tournament to help children affected by domestic violence